Memorandum

U. S. Secret Service
CO-2-34,030

TO : Chief
Attention Inspector Kelley

DATE: January 22, 1964

FROM : SAIC Sorrels, Dallas

SUBJECT: Zapruder Film of the Assassination of President Kennedy

Reference is made to your memorandum of January 14, 1964 instructing that you be informed the details as to the circumstances under which we secured copy of original color film taken by Abraham Zapruder, which original film was purchased by Life Magazine.

Just as soon as the President, Vice President Johnson and Texas Governor Connally were in the Parkland Hospital, Dallas, Texas, at approximately 12:45 P. M., November 22, 1963, I proceeded to Texas School Book Depository Building for the purpose of trying to locate witnesses. Some witnesses were located and were taken to the Sheriff's office which is across the street from the above named building in order that written statements might be obtained from them. While I was in the Sheriff's office, Harry McCormick, a reporter for the Dallas Morning News, contacted me and informed me that he had located a man who had made some movies that he thought we would be interested in. He then took me to the office of Mr. Abraham Zapruder, dress manufacturer, Jennifer Juniors, Inc., 501 Elm St., Dallas, Tex., who was introduced to me by Mr. McCormick. Mr. Zapruder was emotionally upset at the time as he had personally seen President Kennedy shot while taking movies of the President in the motorcade from Houston and Elm Streets to the underpass west of the Texas School Book Depository Building. Mr. Zapruder agreed to furnish me with a copy of this film with the understanding that it was strictly for official use of the Secret Service and that it would not be shown or given to any newspapers or magazines as he expected to sell the film for as high a price as he could get for it. Mr. McCormick was also interested in the film and had offered Mr. Zapruder $1,000.00 for it, but there were others that were also interested. Accompanied by Mr. McCormick we took Mr. Zapruder to the Dallas Morning News and to their radio station offices in an effort to get the film developed, however, they were not equipped to do so, but did ascertain that Eastman Kodak Company in Dallas could develop the film immediately. We then took Mr. Zapruder to the Eastman Kodak Company where he made arrangements to have the film developed and also copies made of same. Later I went to Mr. Zapruder's office and he gave to me two copies of this film, one copy of which was immediately airmailed to Chief and one copy was retained by me. At the time Mr. Zapruder gave me the copies of the film he had not sold the original film. When he gave me the two copies of the film he again specified that the film was for government use and that I was not to let either copy get in the hands of any newspaper or magazine company.

The following day Inspector Kelley obtained the retained copy of the film from me which he loaned to the FBI and which was subsequently returned to Inspector Kelley who gave the film to me and it is now in the Dallas office.

FVS:LR

To Insp. Kelley
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